

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A shaft operator assembly for powering a door comprising a movable door leaf and a door shaft geared to said door leaf for common movement, including a shaft connecting means for connecting a driven member of said shaft operator assembly to said door shaft, wherein said shaft connecting means comprises a connecting plate element secured to or ~~integrally configured with~~ said driven member and a shaft connecting element mountable non-rotatably on said door shaft, said shaft connecting element including an axial opening extending through said shaft connecting element for receiving non-rotatably said door shaft and connectable or connected by a plate connecting portion located ~~radial~~ radially outside of said opening to said connecting plate element;

wherein said connecting plate element is a flat connecting plate separate from said shaft connecting element, said plate connecting portion of said shaft connecting element and said connecting plate being interconnectable;

said connecting plate element is secured non-rotatably and braced to said driven member by a coupler;

wherein said coupler comprises a flanged portion, said flanged portion is in positive engagement with said connecting plate element in a non-rotatable but axially movable manner; and

wherein said connecting plate element is clasped by said coupler and includes on a side opposite said driven member a receiving access facing said door shaft in which the clasping flanged portion of said coupler is fully received.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said plate connecting portion comprises ~~at least one of an~~ an axial protuberance ~~and/or at least one~~ and an axial retracting recess, and

wherein said connecting plate element has a structure configured complementary to said plate connecting portion, corresponding with ~~at least one~~ of a complementary axial retracting recess for receiving said axial protuberance of said plate connecting portion ~~and/or and at least one~~ a complementary axial protruding portion for engaging said axial retracting recess of said plate connecting portion so that said plate connecting portion and connecting plate interlock.

4. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said shaft connecting element is shiftably mountable on said door shaft and definably locked in place thereon by positive friction action against shifting out of place.

5. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein said shaft connecting element comprises a radial tapped hole for receiving a clamping cap screw to lock said tube connecting element to said door shaft.

6. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein a protuberance of said door shaft is arranged in the inner axial opening of said shaft connecting element ~~comprises a protuberance of said door shaft~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~an assortment~~ a plurality of shaft connecting elements ~~having~~ have axial openings ~~differingly configured is provided~~ with assorted configurations for connecting to door shafts differing in size and/or for positively accommodating door shafts differing in contour.

8. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 2 ~~15~~, wherein said shaft connecting element and said connecting plate element are secured to each other by means of cap screws.

9. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said driven member ~~is formed by or~~ comprises one of a quill shaft ~~or~~ and a hollow shaft totally housed in a gearcase.

10. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim ~~1~~ 15, wherein said connecting plate is secured non-rotatably to said driven member by ~~means of~~ a coupler.

11. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said coupler comprises an engaging portion positively engaging non-rotatably said one of a quill shaft and hollow shaft.

12. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 10, wherein said connecting plate is clasped by said coupler and ~~comprises~~ includes a receiving recess on the ~~in~~ a side opposite said driven member for facing to ~~toward~~ said door shaft ~~a receiving recess~~ in which ~~the~~ a clasp flanged portion of said coupler is fully receivable.

13. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 10, wherein said coupler comprises a flanged portion for positively receiving said connecting plate non-rotatably for axial shifting ~~thereof~~ of the connecting plate.

14. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 12, wherein the outer contour of said flanged portion of said coupler is insertable non-rotatably into said axial opening of said shaft connecting element for axial shifting thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1,~~

A shaft operator assembly for powering a door comprising a movable door leaf and a door shaft geared to said door leaf for common movement, including a shaft connecting means for connecting a driven member of said shaft operator assembly to said door shaft, wherein said shaft connecting means comprises a connecting plate element securable to said driven member and a shaft connecting element mountable non-rotatably on said door shaft, said shaft connecting element including an axial opening extending through said shaft connecting element for receiving non-rotatably said door shaft and connectable or connected by a plate connecting portion located radially outside of said opening to said connecting plate element;

wherein said coupler comprises a flanged portion for positively receiving said connecting plate non-rotatably for axial shifting;

wherein ~~the~~ an outer contour of said ~~plate-type~~ flanged portion of said coupler has a modified hexagonal shape in which four edges comprising flats are located by their centerpoints equispaced radially from said longitudinal centerline, a fifth edge being configured nearer to said longitudinal centerline than the four flats and longer than the four flats, and a sixth edge being adapted to the outer contour of said axial opening of said ~~a~~ tube connecting element serving to engage said ~~drive tube~~ door shaft.

16. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said connecting plate element is locked in place by a cap screw extending centrally axial in said driven member in preventing axial movement of said connecting plate element by said connecting plate element being drawn into contact with a flat of said driven member.

17. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein said coupler is locked in place by a cap screw extending centrally axial in said driven member in preventing axial movement thereof by said coupler with said connecting plate being drawn into contact with said driven member.

18. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein an assortment of connecting plate elements differing in size is provided for connecting a variety of shaft connecting elements, each of which can be secured to said driven member by the same coupler.

19. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said connecting plate and said shaft connecting element are made of zinc die-cast.

20. (Currently Amended) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said driven member is arranged on a gearcase ~~featuring~~ having a recess therein for receiving at least in part said connecting plate element arranged on said driven member.

21. (Previously presented) A door including a door leaf and a door shaft geared thereto, wherein the shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1 is connected to said door shaft.

22. (Previously presented) The door as set forth in claim 21, wherein said door shaft is a torsion spring shaft provided full-length with a slot.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for connecting a shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1 to a door shaft comprising the steps:

- a) mounting said shaft connecting element on said door shaft,
- b) moving said shaft operator assembly with said connecting plate element arranged on said driven member in a direction radial to the longitudinal centerline of said door shaft into the assembly position at the end of said door shaft,

c) securing in situ said shaft operator assembly and fastening said shaft connecting element on said connecting plate element,

d) locking said shaft connecting element in place to prevent displacement on said drive tube, more particularly by means of clamping cap screws.

24. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in claim 23, comprising prior to step b) the steps:

a1) mounting a connecting plate used as said connecting plate element on said driven member and

a2) bracing said connecting plate by means of a central axial bracing means to said driven member.

25. (Withdrawn) A method for connecting a shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1 to a door shaft (6) comprising the steps:

e) securing said connecting plate element non-rotatably to said shaft connecting element,

f) mounting said shaft operator assembly with said shaft connecting element on said door shaft;

g) securing in situ said shaft operator assembly,

h) locking said shaft connecting element in place to prevent displacement on said-door shaft by means of locking cap screws.

26. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in claim 25, wherein step e) involves:

e1) securing said connecting plate used as said connecting plate element to said shaft connecting element positively nonrotatably to form a resulting unit,

e2) mounting the resulting unit on said driven member,

e3) inserting said coupler into said unit thus formed through said opening of said tube connecting element,

e4) bracing said connecting plate on said driven member by means of said coupler, the sequence of steps e2) and e3) being optional.

27. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shaft connecting element is mountable positively non-rotatably on said door shaft and said shaft connecting element includes said axial opening extending through said shaft connecting element for receiving positively non-rotatably said door shaft.

28. (Previously presented) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plate connecting portion and said connecting plate are positively engagingly interconnectable.

29. (New) The shaft operator assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the coupler solely secures and braces said connecting plate element non-rotatably to said driven member.